



# THE GREBE

November/December 2006 Vol 1, No. 2

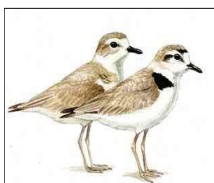
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 14 -**  
**MONTHLY MEETING** at 7  
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor  
Center (*note the date*  
*change*)
- **November 14 -**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**MEETING** after the  
monthly meeting.
- **December 5 -**  
**MONTHLY MEETING** at 7  
p.m. at Deer Flat Visitor  
Center
- **December 12 -**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**MEETING** at 5 p.m. at  
Noreen Tripp's (468-  
0402)
- **January 2 -**  
**MONTHLY MEETING** AT 7  
P.M. AT DEER FLAT  
VISITOR CENTER.

## Changing Seasons at the Refuge

As summer wound down the mudflats that are so inviting to the local and migrating birds emerged

as the water level of the lake fell. At the lower dam in August, a Snowy Plover was found. Snowy Plovers are rarely found in Idaho. They live and breed along the coast. What a great find!



Snowy Plover

In late September the geese and ducks started arriving in large numbers,

and hunters started staking out their favorite spots hoping for a successful hunt. Upland game birds are not stocked at the Refuge but bird dogs can help locate the Quail and Pheasants that are hiding. Duck numbers usually peak in December so hunters will be busy for the next few months.



The fishing season has come to an end at the lake for everyone but the diehard fisherman. Only non-motorized boat can be used in search of bass or catfish.

The Refuge has much to offer to everyone who lives in the area. Fall is a great time to get out spend time at the Refuge, whether biking, hunting, fishing or just wildlife watching.

It's your Refuge, if you don't use it, who will?

## Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

The Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge needs you and your special talents. There are lots of opportunities to help at the refuge. Did you know that the Visitor Center is only open on Saturdays because of volunteers?

Or do you like to garden? The landscape around the Visitor Center needs to be maintained or you can help plant native vegetation that will provide food and shelter for resident wildlife.

Would you like to

help band ducks and geese or participate in nesting surveys?

Please consider spending a few hours each month to help maintain our refuge!

Adopt a refuge program



# President's Corner

When I look at all the things the Friends have accomplished during the past 10 months I am amazed. We've had interesting speakers on timely topics. We've helped the Refuge with projects and events. We've had informational booths at three events. We've formed a committee to monitor the

development near the Refuge and act on problem issues. We've increased our membership.... I could go on and on, but probably the most memorable part of my time as president is the friends I've made, the interesting and dedicated people I've met, the good times, camaraderie and sense of

accomplishment during committee meetings as we planned, discussed and laughed a lot. It has been wonderful being surrounded by so many like minded people. We may have different backgrounds and politics but we've all come together with a common dream;

preserving the Refuge for all time.

Thank you all for giving me this great opportunity.

Lee McGlinsky,  
President

## Indian Creek Festival

Kris Horton and company took our Friends' booth on the road to attend Caldwell's Indian Creek Festival on September 16th. The day was unusually cool for September, making attendance in the morning rather sluggish. People arrived in greater

numbers in the afternoon; we had twenty folks visit our booth and one gentleman expressed interest in becoming a member.

We have already located a premium spot for the festival next year and plan to be next to the Southwestern

Idaho Birders Association booth. Having our booth at local events is an excellent way to make the public aware of our cause and to recruit new members.



## Membership Committee

In this past year we've gone from 12 interested people in January to 53 Friends members in November. Our calling committee contacts everyone on the member/interested people list before events as a reminder. The membership brochures on the Friends table at the Refuge and the articles

about our group that have been published in the local newspapers have brought interested phone calls and more members.

If you know of someone who shares our passion about the Refuge please invite them to attend one of our meetings.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this group is to promote, protect, and provide resources to preserve and enhance Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

# Smartweed



Smartweed near the lower dam

If you have spent any time at the Refuge during the past several months, you will have seen the green plants that are growing along the shoreline around the perimeter of the lake. The plant is *Polygonum* spp., more commonly known as Smartweed. It is part of the Buckwheat family and is a native to North America.

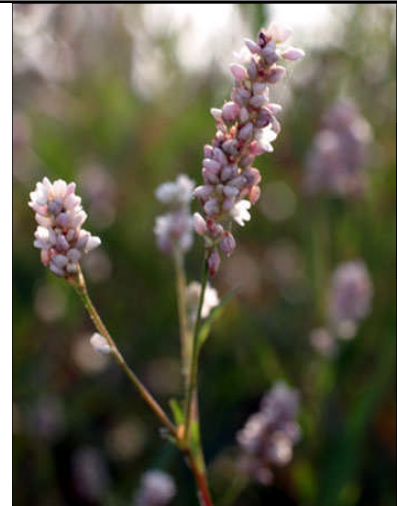
Smartweed is a perennial plant that forms dense colonies in shallow water or moist soils and can grow to 4 or 5 feet tall. Stems are jointed or have swollen leaf nodes that are surrounded by a tubular sheath. Roots can develop from the leaf nodes. Leaves are alternate, lance-shaped up to 4 inches long but usually less than 1/2 inch

wide. Flowers are on spikes at the end of stems (often numerous spikes on the same plant). Flowers begin as greenish then turn whitish or a light pink in color as they mature. Fruits are flat, triangular (1/8 inch), dark brown to black.

Submerged portions of all aquatic plants provide habitats for many micro and macro invertebrates. These invertebrates in turn are used as food by fish and other wildlife species (e.g. amphibians, reptiles, ducks, etc).

After aquatic plants die, their decomposition by bacteria and fungi provides food for many aquatic invertebrates. Smartweed seeds are heavily consumed by ducks, small birds, and small mammals. Each plant produces about 3,000 seeds. Elaine Johnson, Refuge Manager, says that the ducks on the lake love to eat Smart weed.

The next time you are at the Refuge take a few minutes to scan the smartweed; there is no telling what you will find.



Smart weed in bloom

Smartweed in October off Orchard Rd



## A Big THANK YOU to...

Jon Minkoff and Al McGlinsky our application for the \$5,000 was submitted on time and now all we have to do is keep our fingers crossed until we learn the outcome in mid November. Al and Jon spent

months researching, writing, making phone calls and discussing options. The Grant will be used three ways; 1) to purchase technical equipment (laptop computer, digital projector and software) that will

be used by the Friends group to make presentations to community groups, 2) Portable display board, table and canopy for booth and group presentations and 3) to start a Bookstore at the Visitor Center.







## FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE

13751 Upper Embankment Road  
Nampa, Idaho 83686-8046

### Executive Board:

President - Lee McGlinsky (465-0404)

Vice President - Noreen Tripp (468-0402)

Treasurer/Secretary - Kris Horton (461-9717)

## Upcoming Programs

Nov. 14 - Celebration Pot Luck

Note date change to avoid  
conflict with general election.

It's time  
for high  
fives  
and pats  
on the  
back for  
all the  
things



Friends have accomplished in a brief time. Come prepared for delicious food, silly awards and inspiring speeches about our accomplishments. Bring a friend or two. There will be plenty of good food and lots of fun!

Dec. 5 - 2007 Planning Meeting

This will be a member participation meeting. We need to start planning for the new year. Come prepared with ideas and suggestions.

Jan. 2 - Election of new Board members.

It's the start of a new year and time to elect new board and committee members.



Wildlife viewing platform signs